

# The Renzi Report

VOL. 3 ISSUE 10

DECEMBER / JANUARY 2006

Your Direct Link to the News and Events from Our Nation's Capital and Rural Arizona

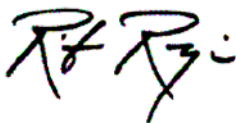
## Dear Fellow Arizonan:

As Congress finished its work for the year, we were able to pass several important pieces of legislation to safeguard our local communities from the scourge of methamphetamines, as well as a new comprehensive border security strategy that includes my "Red Zone Defense," to protect our nation.

The illegal use and distribution of methamphetamines continues to be a major problem both along our border areas and in our rural areas. Disturbingly, as we crack down on this drug in the United States, more and more of it is being smuggled in from Mexico. I will continue to fight to secure our borders and help make our communities safer.

As always, feel free to tell your family members, friends and neighbors about the Renzi Report. You can sign up to receive this email and find additional information about developments in Congress at my website. Just click on the following link: <http://www.house.gov/renzi>.

If you have any questions or comments about this e-newsletter or anything else, please e-mail me at [rick.renzi@mail.house.gov](mailto:rick.renzi@mail.house.gov) and I will get back to you as quickly as possible. I hope you find this Renzi Report informative. Thank you and may God Bless America.



Congressman Rick Renzi

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Congressman Renzi recently appeared on CNN's Lou Dobbs tonight to push for tougher border security and increased intelligence against drug cartels in Mexico. Congressman Renzi noted that Mexico is an important partner with the US with its efforts to stop drug trafficking and narco-terrorists who are to blame for an increase in violence along the border.

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## ***Rural Arizona Legislative Update***

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### **Renzi Announces \$1 Million for Rural Arizona Regional Drug Coalition**

Congressman Rick Renzi joined Yavapai County Sheriff Steve Waugh and Yavapai County Attorney Shelia Polk recently to announce \$1 million in new federal funds to coordinate efforts to combat the use and trafficking of methamphetamine. Yavapai County will be receiving \$200,000 and will work together with other rural counties as part of a Rural Arizona Regional Drug Coalition. Congressman Renzi is a member of the Congressional Caucus to Fight and Control Methamphetamine and is currently the co-sponsor of several bills to fight illegal meth use including the Combat Meth Act of 2005 (H.R. 314), the Methamphetamine Epidemic Elimination Act (H.R. 3889), and the Clean, Learn, Educate, Abolish, Neutralize, and Undermine Production (CLEAN-UP) of Methamphetamines Act (H.R. 13).

**“We are at war with ‘crystal meth,’ and this money will help with enforcement activities, drug prevention and education, court advocacy programs, and incarceration of convicted individuals in Arizona,” said Congressman Renzi. “This funding will help provide more tools to rural Arizona law enforcement officials as we fight this problem. We must take a stand and stop this plague of drugs that is affecting our communities and our residents.”**

### **Renzi Pushes for Tougher Federal Penalties for Meth Traffickers and Smugglers**

Congressman Rick Renzi (AZ-1), a member of the Congressional Meth Task Force, recently fought for tougher federal penalties against meth traffickers and smugglers. The new language to crack down on meth production and distribution was included as part of the USA PATRIOT ACT legislation which passed the House. The language specifically toughen penalties against persons who cook or deal meth in the presence of children, it authorizes new funding for the meth prevention programs and for the meth “Hot Spots” grant program that provides assistance to state and local agencies in dealing with meth labs and trafficking. The legislation also authorizes new grants to help states assist drug-endangered children, as well as addicted women with children.

**“Meth is a serious problem affecting our local communities in rural Arizona, and securing more federal funds to combat the production and distribution of this deadly drug in rural Arizona is one of my top priorities,” said Congressman Renzi. “The measure passed this week will place restrictions on retail sales of precursor chemicals, improve import and wholesale regulations, and provide for international monitoring, while toughening penalties against meth traffickers and smugglers.”**

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## ***Arizona Border Security Update***

### **House Passes "Red Zone Defense" as Part of Border Security Bill**

The House of Representatives last month passed Congressman Rick Renzi's (AZ-1) "Red Zone Defense" border strategy as part of the larger border security legislation. The multi-million dollar program is a comprehensive, aggressive and proactive border strategy which proposes to use state-of-the-art technology to track immigrants and other potential threats.

**"Americans are ready for a major strategy shift on this nation's border security," said Congressman Renzi. "The American people understand that before there can be a comprehensive immigration policy, America must first secure its borders. The "Red Zone Defense," combined with other measures in this bill will help secure our nation's borders."**

Renzi noted that border areas have seen a dramatic increase in criminal activity by some of the most violent organizations in the world – particularly in terms of smuggling narcotics, humans and other contraband. Renzi's "Red Zone Defense" will provide the financial resources and command framework necessary to implement the use of more unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), drones, ground and tower sensors, aerostat balloons, and a wide range of other collection technologies and intelligence methods already in use by other U.S. government agencies and departments throughout the world. By centrally fusing and sharing the intelligence from these resources in real-time, border authorities will be able to swiftly and interactively shift resources to

interdict the threats – before they cross the border.

### **House Passes Amendment to Border Security Legislation to Require Border Patrol Uniforms to be Made in USA**

Congressman Renzi offered an amendment to the House Border Security bill which passed the House to require all uniforms made for the Border Patrol to be made in America. Renzi said that U.S. Customs and Border Protection uniforms made in Mexico could be a threat to border security. Renzi noted that if the uniforms were to fall into the wrong hands they could hurt America's border security efforts.

**"These uniforms represent law and order on our border," said Congressman Renzi. "Mandating that they be made in America would minimize the possibility that they could be procured by smugglers, terrorists or others who pose great risk to our agents. Our Border Patrol Agents need to be secure in the knowledge that when they are on the border, their uniforms will not be used against them."**



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## ***Arizona Native American Update***

### **Renzi Tribal Housing Bill Signed by President Bush**

The United States House of Representatives last month passed a bill authored by Congressman Rick Renzi (AZ-1) to assist in stretching existing resources and creates funding flexibility for Native American housing. The bill passed the Senate in November was signed into law by President Bush on December 22, 2005.

Known as the Native American Housing Enhancement Act of 2005, the bill (HR 797) makes three important changes to various existing housing statutes, including the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act (NAHASDA).

**“I am thrilled to see this bill pass because it will help give Native Americans in rural Arizona, and across the nation, the tools they need to better utilize federal housing programs and plan for the future,” said Congressman Renzi. “I am especially pleased to see the YouthBuild program reinstituted to help teach life skills to at-risk youth. This program not only provides these young people with an opportunity to improve themselves, it allows them to assist their communities by building new housing for needy families.”**

Congressman Renzi's bill specifically clarifies the intent of NAHASDA. It will let the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) allow tribes unrestricted access to new NAHASDA funds, even if they still retain income from previous years. This important provision removes a barrier that has been in place since 1996.

Previous concerns about possible penalties for generating and retaining housing related funds have prevented tribes from accessing vital housing grants.

The measure also helps bring the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) housing programs in line with HUD's Indian housing programs. Tribal governments are currently unable to exercise Indian preference for USDA housing programs, because it is considered a Civil Rights violation to give preference based on race. Indian preference is essential because it allows the tribal governments to address the needs of their citizens.

### **Renzi Votes Against Cuts to Education and Healthcare**

Congressman Rick Renzi (AZ-1) voted against education cuts in the Departments of Labor, Education, and Health and Human Services Appropriation bill that was debated last month on the floor of the House of Representatives. Congressman Renzi joined 11 other Republicans to vote twice against the cuts.

**“I represent the largest poverty ridden landmass in the United States,” said Congressman Renzi. “The only way to break this cycle is through better education and quality healthcare. Sound minds and healthy bodies can provide a person with a chance to better themselves, and a way out of poverty. I could not support a cut to these funds because they represent a commitment I made to the neediest of families.”**

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## *In Case You Missed It...*

### Immigration voted top story in state

[http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=15848148&BRD=1817&PAG=461&dept\\_id=68561&rfi=6](http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=15848148&BRD=1817&PAG=461&dept_id=68561&rfi=6)

### U.S. seeks bids for virtual border fence

[http://www.seacoastonline.com/news/12302005/biz\\_nati/80535.htm](http://www.seacoastonline.com/news/12302005/biz_nati/80535.htm)

### U.S. pays Mexico to secure border

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/1229mexicoaid.html>

### Defense firms turn to border security

<http://www.dfw.com/mld/dfw/business/13499811.htm>

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